

For the Saturday Gazette.

FOREIGN CORRESPONDENCE.

ITALY.

Pisa, Italy, April 30, 1874.

MR. LYON.

DEAR SIR: There is probably no place in all Italy where the reverses of fortune are more fully realized than here in Pisa. In the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries this place was the powerful rival of Florence and one of the most important cities of Italy; it was celebrated for art and its men of letters, and for a long time was one of the principal upholders of the papal power in Italy; and many were the battles that the old warrior Pope Julius II owed to the strong arms and intrepid courage of these Pisans.

To-day we find a different state of things; a small unimportant town with no voice whatever in the world's doings; a place hardly known except for its cathedral and celebrated leaning tower, relics of the past, and owing to these things only is Pisa on our maps, for if they should be lost there would be nothing left of Pisa.

They bring travellers who support the few hotels here, and who buy the alabaster works, the only business of the place. Even the glorious old monuments seem ashamed of their native city's fallen grandeur, for they are situated in one corner of the city, entirely alone, as if to seek respect in numbers.

THE LEANING TOWER.

The traveler first comes upon the Campanile—or as more commonly known the "Leaning Tower."

Almost involuntarily a feeling of fear comes over a person on approaching the tower, for there it is directly in front, the top thirteen feet from the perpendicular.

Naturally there is a great deal of discussion as to the how and the wherefore of this being built as it is.

The most generally accepted theory is, that after they had commenced to build the tower, it settled. "On one side at a certain elevation, the columns are higher than on the other; thus showing an attempt on the part of the builders to bring back the upper part to its vertical direction as practicable. The walls too are strengthened with iron bars. In consequence, and as the courses of stone cannot slide one on another, the tower does not fall because the centre of gravity still remains within its base." Thus says Murray, the oracle of all tourists, and he is supposed to be good authority. But if you ask a Pisan why it was built so, he will assure you that his ancestors built it leaning, in order to show the world that it was practicable.

It is well to believe so in Pisa, but outside, it is not.

THE CATHEDRAL.

A truly handsome building, both outside and inside. It contains the swinging lamp from which Galileo got the theory of the pendulum, and which is considered one of the curiosities of the place.

The Baptistery, next to the Cathedral, is a small round building of exquisite proportions, and whose chief merit is its exterior; probably in ancient days it had such tremendous baptisms that the water wiped out any pictures that might have been there.

THE CAMPO SANTO.

Pisa's "Westminster Abbey," is a curious place and one that is rather interesting. It consists of an oblong piece of ground enclosed by a sort of cloister, in which are deposited 33 ship loads of earth from Palestine, brought by an archbishop of this place, to console his countrymen for his defeat in the attempted capture of Jerusalem by the Christians.

In the cloister and enclosed space, lie all that is mortal of Pisa's once renowned, sometimes, out very rarely, it is place found for some modern Pisan, about the only honor she can give to her very few and far between celebrities. Around Pisa are many very thrifty and well-to-do towns, the most important of which are Carrara, where all the Italian marble comes from, and

LEGHORN, a place of one hundred thousand inhabitants which is one of the principal summer resorts of Italy, besides being a port of considerable size, as may be judged from the fact that a few days ago when I was there, twelve American vessels were lying at her docks. Although Leghorn is still a very prosperous and important city it has not as large a foreign trade as it had five years ago, when it was a free port. There is hardly a place in Italy that has not some monument or legend which speaks well for the ingenuity of the clergy and bad for the superstition of the people. Leghorn, with all her intercourse with foreigners, and prosperity has one such blot on her fair name. Just outside of the city on a small hill, (about the size of the Orange mountain, no offense meant), called Monte Nero, there is a beautiful church dedicated to the Virgin, which owes its existence to the following legend: "Early one morning, several centuries ago, a poor shepherd boy found a picture of the Virgin which had dropped from heaven.

He naturally wished to possess such a treasure, and not being from heaven himself, he knew no supernatural way to do it, accordingly he took it in his hands and tried to carry it off, as another son of Adam would have done. Much to his dismay, the further he carried it, the heavier it grew until he was compelled to lay it down, and upon the spot where he dropped it this church is built. Such is the belief in the healing qualities of this picture, which is still preserved, that once a year thousands of people from all parts of Italy come here to be healed by its miraculous influence.

Yours very sincerely, ALBERT D. WARREN.

C. F. ELY, Dentist.

HAYDEN'S BUILDINGS, Montclair, Late with Dr. C. A. Alden, N. Y.

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MAY 30 K.W.

The Saturday Gazette.

BLOOMFIELD AND MONTCLAIR.

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will be received and forwarded by the

Postmaster, also at our office in Bloomfield,

or may be addressed by mail, to Wm. F.

Lyon, Editor and Proprietor, Bloomfield,

N. J.

MARRIED.

COCKEY—COYMAN—On May 25th 1874

at the residence of the bride, by the Rev. A. M.

Quirk, Albert R. Cockey, of Bloomfield, to

Mary Francis Coyman of Franklin.

Hinman's Mourning Store.

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HEAVY ENGLISH CRAPES,

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Bonnets, Hats, Ribbons, Flowers, &c., to be

sold Cheap. Millinery done in all its branches,

in the newest and most fashionable style and at

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